



BARKING DOG Fact Sheet

Domestic Animal Noise Nuisance

Under Noosa Council Local Law 2 Animal Management, owners are responsible for ensuring their animals don't cause a nuisance by making excessive noise that disrupts or inhibits any normal activity ordinarily carried out in nearby properties. A nuisance may occur if (in the opinion of an Authorised Officer) there is sufficient evidence to support the observation that others are being affected by the activity of the offending animal.

Resolving the Nuisance

STEP 1

Contact your neighbour to discuss – either by personal approach or letter. (Please see Barking Dog process on Council's website or obtain a copy by calling customer service on 5329 6500).

STEP 2

Lodge a formal complaint with Council. Fomal complaint forms are available on council's website at www.noosa.qld.gov.au or by calling our customer service team on 5329 6500.

STEP 3

If barking is not resolved after initial investigation, you may be required to assist Council to establish there is a genuine issue by gathering evidence to support your complaint.

After Council receive a complaint

Not all noise may constitute a noise nuisance under the Local Law. We must be satisfied that they are in fact creating a noise nuisance. If we are unable to determine that a noise nuisance exists, no further action will be taken. However if the Officer is satisfied that there is a noise nuisance occurring, the following action may include:

- Issue of an Action Notice; and/or
- Issue of Penalty Infringement Notice (fine); and/or
- Issue a Compliance Notice pursuant to Noosa Council's Local Laws;
- Prosecute the owner of the dog in Noosa Magistrates Court (only considered in exceptional circumstances).

Examples of a Noise Nuisance

Examples of a noise nuisance:

- Noise that, in the opinion of the officer, unreasonably disrupts a person from:
 - o Holding a conversation
 - o Sleeping
 - o Watching television

Tips for Neighbours

If your neighbour has a noisy animal, take the time to talk to them as they may be unaware their animal is causing a nuisance. Your feedback could help them understand and resolve any problems that may be contributing to their behaviour.

Understanding Dog Behaviour

Barking is a natural behaviour for dogs and is one of the ways they communicate. However, if barking is excessive or occurs for long periods of time during the day or night, it has to be addressed.

On-going barking is often a symptom of another problem, taking time to understand what makes dogs bark is the first step towards solving the problem, both for the dog and the neighbours.

Why Dogs Bark

Dogs may bark if:

- Lonely, bored or frustrated
- Stress from being separated from their owner
- A learnt behaviour to get what they want
- Seeking attention
- Scared of people, objects and/or other animals
- Feels that their territory is being threatened
- Stimulated from playing
- Unwell

Ways to Reduce Barking

Barking may be improved through several small behavioural and environmental changes. Council recommends dog owners seek the advice of an expert such as your vet, a dog behaviouralist or a dog trainer.

